

# MID-COLUMBIA – AMERICAN RIVER SPRING CHINOOK

## STOCK STATUS

**1992 STATUS**

**Depressed**

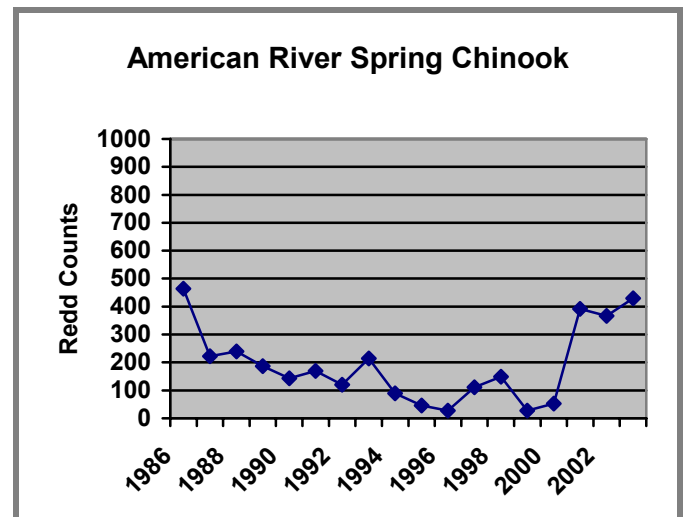
**2002 STATUS**

**Depressed**

## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

**USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS:** Good

YEAR	REDD COUNTS
1986	464
1987	222
1988	187
1989	187
1990	143
1991	170
1992	120
1993	214
1994	89
1995	46
1996	28
1997	111
1998	149
1999	27
2000	53
2001	392
2002	366
2003	430



Data are redd counts from float and foot surveys in the American River from the mouth upstream to Morse Creek. Surveys encompass all known spring Chinook spawning habitat in the American River watershed.

Although the 2001 redd count was considerably higher than in previous years, we are not certain that this level of escapement will be maintained. Therefore stock status remains **Depressed** in 2002 because of a **long-term negative trend** and **chronically low** redd counts.

## STOCK DEFINITION

American River spring Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, river entry timing (late April through June) and spawning timing, age composition (five-year-old spawners predominate) and genetic composition.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Spawning takes place throughout the mainstem American River.

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**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late July through August. This timing is earlier than for the Naches and Upper Yakima spring Chinook stocks.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown that American River spring Chinook are genetically distinct from other Columbia basin Chinook stocks examined (WDF and WDW 1993).

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production. One release of non-native hatchery spring Chinook occurred when 162,400 Klickitat spring Chinook fingerlings were released in the American River. We believe that this release did not affect the genetic integrity of the native stock.